

FIRE FACT SHEET
Miles City Interagency Fire
Eastern Montana Fire Zone

Date: September 12th, 2006

Time: 0900 hours

Fire Information Contact: Dena Lang, 406-233-2907 / 406-853-0274 (Cell)

A lightning storm moved throughout Eastern Montana on Sunday evening, September 10th. This storm started numerous fires in Eastern Montana. Rain was also received with this storm and this along with quick initial attack and excellent communication between fire agencies allowed firefighters to contain most of the fires on Monday evening.

Status of Current Fires:

Fort Keogh: This fire burned approximately 75 acres on private land approximately 9 miles south of Miles City in Custer County. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation assisted the county by providing 2 DNRC engines and 1 State of New Mexico engine to aid in suppression of this fire.

Chimney Spring: This fire is approximately 15 miles southeast of Miles City in Custer County. The fire burned 25 acres of private land in grass and pine. Once the fire was contained resources were sent to the Okerman fire spotted south of this fire. DNRC assisted the county with engines and a Type 2 DNRC Helicopter. DNRC Helicopter Pilot, Al Arnold, stated that "fire behavior was moderate on Monday; the fires were contained and there were no active winds". This fire is in patrol status.

Okerman: This fire is approximately 18 miles southeast of Miles City in Custer County. The fire burned 15 acres in grass and sage. DNRC assisted the county. 5 Private Contract engines, 2 BLM engines and 2 County engines suppressed the fire and are still on scene.

Hatcher: This fire is approximately 5 miles northeast of Fallon, MT and 15 miles northeast of Terry, MT. The fire has burned 10 acres in grass and juniper on private land. DNRC assisted Prairie County with the fire by providing a Type 2 DNRC Helicopter, a local dozer, and DNRC overhead personnel.

Piper Draw: This fire is 22 miles southeast of Ashland, MT burning on the Custer National Forest, Ashland Ranger District. The fire has been accurately mapped at 37.1 acres and is burning in ponderosa pine and grass understory. 5 BLM engines, 8 Smokejumpers, 3 BLM Helitack personnel, 1 Private engine, 1 10-person crew and local landowners worked aggressively yesterday afternoon to suppress this fire. A BLM Type 3 Helicopter, 1 Air Attack plane, and 5 SEAT's provided aerial support throughout the afternoon to fire crews on the ground.

Morgan: This fire is burning 25-30 miles northwest of Jordan, MT in Garfield County. The fire is currently 75 acres burning in ponderosa pine, juniper and grass on Fish and Wildlife Service, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge lands. 3 CMR engines, 4 Garfield County Volunteer Fire Department engines and 1 BLM engine are fighting this fire. Yesterday afternoon the IC reported the fire "burning in heavy grass and light timber running towards Snow Creek". Isolated torching occurred on the fire into the evening hours. 4 SEAT's dropped one load of retardant each on the fire Monday evening.

Widow and Two Goat: These fires were approximately 70 miles northeast of Jordan, MT in McCone County. The Widow fire was 4.5 acres on BLM land and was controlled at 1430 hours on Monday. The Two Goat fire was 43 acres on BLM and Private land and was controlled Monday morning at 0838. Both fires burned in juniper and grass and were extinguished by VFD's from McCone and Valley Counties, CMR and BLM engines.

Bronco Sam: This fire is 12 miles southwest of Ekalaka, MT on the Custer National Forest, Sioux Ranger District. The fire burned 1/10 of an acre and was controlled at 1329 hours Monday afternoon. 1 BLM and 1 Carter County Volunteer Fire Department engine suppressed this fire.

Elmore: This fire is 13 miles southwest of Ekalaka, MT on the Custer National Forest, Sioux Ranger District. The fire is 2 acres burning in grass and ponderosa pine. The fire was controlled Monday evening at 1955 by BLM and County fire engines. The fire has been put into patrol status.

Beach: This fire is 8 miles northeast of Ekalaka, MT burning in grass and ponderosa pine on Private land. The fire burnt ¼ of an acre and has been controlled and put into patrol status. Private engines and 1 BLM engine suppressed this fire.

Aircraft: 5 Single Engine Airtankers, 1 Air Attack Platform, 1 Type III Helicopter and 1 Type II DNRC Helicopter are currently stationed at Frank Wiley Field in Miles City.

Weather and Special Concerns: A high pressure system will continue to dominate the area for a couple more days bringing dry and warm conditions. Late Wednesday or Thursday a strong cold frontal system will move through bringing colder temperatures and a chance of precipitation. Until then, afternoon temperatures will be 10 – 15 degrees above normal and will vary from 80 – 90 degrees. Relative humidities will be in the 10 – 15% range. Winds will vary throughout the zone from 5 – 25 mph. The Haines Index for the Jordan area is 6; for the Fort Howes area it is 4; and for the Ekalaka area it is 3 for today.